Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /063 W

-----071342Z 053533 /50

R 070939Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5934
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER "WARNED"

SUMMARY. IN FIRST SUCCESSFUL FLEXING OF OPPOSITION PARTY MUSCLE IN SOME YEARS, LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE FORMALLY "WARNED" JUSTICE MINISTER FUKUDA FOR REFUSING TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTS ON SO-CALLED "GREY" (I.E. UNINDICTABLE) OFFICIALS IN LOCKHEED CASE. END SUMMARY.

1. LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MARCH 5 PASSED RESOLUTION OF "WARNING" AIMED AT LDP JUSTICE MINISTER HAJIME FUKUDA (NO KIN OF PRIMIN) FOR STATING TEN DAYS EARLIER THAT HE WOULD NOT PROVIDE LOWER HOUSE LOCKHEED COMMITTEE WITH DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO OFFICIALS IMPLICATED IN LOCKHEED CASE BUT WHO, BECAUSE OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS OR LACK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCRETE EVIDENCE, WERE NOT INDICTED. ACTION WAS TAKEN AFTER HUMILIATING FUKUDA RETRACTION AND PROMISE TO PROVIDE DIET WITH WHAT IT WANTED AND AFTER PRIMIN FUKUDA STATED FLATLY HIS ADMINISTRATION'S LOCKHEED POLICY WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF FORMER PRIMIN MIKI.

2. ATTACK ON JUSTICE MINISTER FUKUDA WAS INITIATED BY

YOHEI KONO'S NEW LIBERAL CLUB WHICH ORIGINALLY CALLED FOR NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION. BECAUSE MOTION WAS CERTAIN TO FAIL IN LOWER HOUSE PLENARY WHERE LDP HAS MAJORITY, HOWEVER, OPPOSITION PARTIES EVENTUALLY AGREED TO PASS "WARNING" RESOLUTION IN BUDGET COMMITTEE, WHERE THEY HAVE ONE-SEAT MAJORITY.

3. COMMENT. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE AS RESULT OF PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION IN WHICH LDP. WITH INSUFFICIENT MAJORITY FOR FULL CONTROL OF ALL COMMITTEES, HAS HAD TO CHOOSE IN SOME INSTANCES BETWEEN HOLDING CHAIRMANSHIP OR MAJORITY -- IN THIS INSTANCE, PARTY OPTED FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. RESOLUTION ITSELF REFLECTED NOT ONLY CONTINUED WIDESPREAD POPULAR INTEREST IN EXPOSING ALL OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN LOCKHEED PAYOFFS, REGARDLESS OF LEGAL NICETIES, BUT ALSO EQUALLY WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT, BECAUSE MIKI OPPONENTS BROUGHT THEM TO POWER, JUSTICE MINISTER FUKUDA AND PRESENT FUKUDA ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS ENTHUSIASTIC THAN MIKI ABOUT TURNING OVER ALL LOCKHEED STONES. FACT THAT ATTACK WAS LED BY KONO'S "CONSERVATIVE" NLC SUGGESTED THAT FUTURE COOPERATION AMONG "CONSERVATIVES" MIGHT BE LESS LIKELY THAN THAT BETWEEN LDP AND "REFORMIST" DSP OR CGP. SHOESMIGHT

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Message Attributes

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Subject: JUSTICE MINISTER \"WARNED\" SUMMARY. IN FIRST SUCCESSFUL FLEXING OF OPPOSITION PARTY MUSCLE IN SOME YEARS,

LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE TAGS: PINT, JA, LOCKHEED

To: STATE Type: TE

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